

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE

16th January 2013

(NPA Offices, Llanion Park, Pembroke Dock: 10.00am – 12.55pm)

Present: Councillor M Williams (Chairman)
Councillor L Jenkins, Councillor D Rees; Mmes A Robinson, W Marmara
and Mr R Smith
Ms C Gwyther attended the meeting in place of Mrs M Thomas.

[Ms S Hughes arrived before presentation of the first application]

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Lewis, Mrs M Thomas, Mr T Sangster, Ms C Daugherty and Mrs A Winterton. It was noted that Ms S Hughes would arrive later in the meeting.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd October 2012 were presented for confirmation and signature.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2012 be confirmed and signed.

3. Declaration of Interest

Non-pecuniary interests were declared by A Robinson and S Hughes as their organisations had been involved in two of the applications for consideration that day. However neither of them had personally had any involvement with the projects.

4. Sustainable Development Fund Update Report

The SDF Administrator reported that there was ongoing delay with the Martletwy Sustainable Community Project. It was unlikely that the £14,941 committed at the SDF Grant Assessment Panel in November 2012 would be spent in the current financial year. Additional funding was now being sought from a local business and it was anticipated that the outcome of this would be known at the end of January.

The report went on to outline the contents of the annual SDF report to the Welsh Government detailing progress of the fund from April 2011 to March 2012. It also noted the outcomes of the National Sustainable Development Workgroup Meeting which consisted of officers from all UK National Parks.

A number of enquiries had been received about the fund in recent weeks which it was hoped would result in applications to bring to the next meeting of the Committee. The SDF Administrator explained that she would also be holding a

funding surgery, in conjunction with Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS), on 6th February 2013. The report set out the current financial position of the fund. This showed that there would be £69,510 of uncommitted funding at the end of the financial year, if the three projects under consideration that day requesting funding for 2012/13 were approved. This figure assumed that all the funding already committed would be claimed and paid, however as noted earlier in the meeting it was unlikely that the Martletwy Sustainable Community Project would spend the funding committed to it. Therefore the amount of uncommitted funding at the end of the financial year might be as much as £84,451. The report also outlined the details of the Little Green Grant projects which had received support in 2012/13.

It was **AGREED** that the report of the SDF Administrator be adopted.

5. Applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund

The Committee considered five new applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Fund. The applications were considered in detail against the fund assessment criteria, following a brief presentation by each of the project applicants. The SDF Administrator reminded Members that a number of the applications included on the agenda that day contained commercially sensitive information.

| Ref No | Project Name | Presentation by | Organisation |
|---------------|---|--|---|
| SDF 0326 | Wyndrush Wild Meadow Seed | Matt Sutton | Wyndrush Wild Products |
| SDF 0327 | Affordable Solar Homes | Glen Peters Gareth Dauncey Jens Schroder | Western Solar Ltd |
| SDF 0328 | Cemaes Himalayan Balsam Eradication Project 2013 | Antosh and Gill Wislocka | Cymdeithas Llandudoch/St Dogmaels Community Association |
| SDF 0329 | eduCAT | Darren Gibbs | TYF Connect |
| SDF 0330 | Cardigan Community Regeneration Options Appraisal Study | Brian Mark | 4CG Cymru |

The Chairman reminded the Committee that, under its terms of reference, the decisions were to be taken by the Members of the National Park Authority, taking into consideration the views of the lay members. The Committee determined the applications as follows:

a) SDF 0326 Wyndrush Wild Meadow Seed

Members of the Committee believed that the project offered obvious National Park and biodiversity benefits and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the application be approved.

b) SDF 0327 Affordable Solar Homes

The Committee were keen for the work done by Coed Cymru on the Tŷ Unnos programme to be developed further and it was hoped that this project would provide the vehicle for to do this.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the application be approved.

c) SDF 0328 Cemaes Himalayan Balsam Eradication Project 2013

The Committee noted that the community was undertaking valuable work to significantly reduce the problem caused by Himalayan Balsam on Cemaes Head. To ensure lasting benefits from the work being under taken, it was agreed that in the future the implementation of Management Agreements on the land in question would be important for ongoing sustainable land management.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the application be approved.

d) SDF 0329 eduCAT

Concern was expressed that as the pilot project had not been completed, there was little evidence of it having met its outcomes.

It was **RESOLVED** that the application be deferred and the applicant asked to provide project feedback both from the schools involved in the pilot, and those companies which had set challenges to the school children. Also to confirm commitment from other schools in the County.

e) SDF 0330 Cardigan Community Regeneration Options Appraisal Study

It was noted that match funding was still required for this project, however any grant agreed by the Committee would be subject to such funding being found.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the application be approved.